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SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 202

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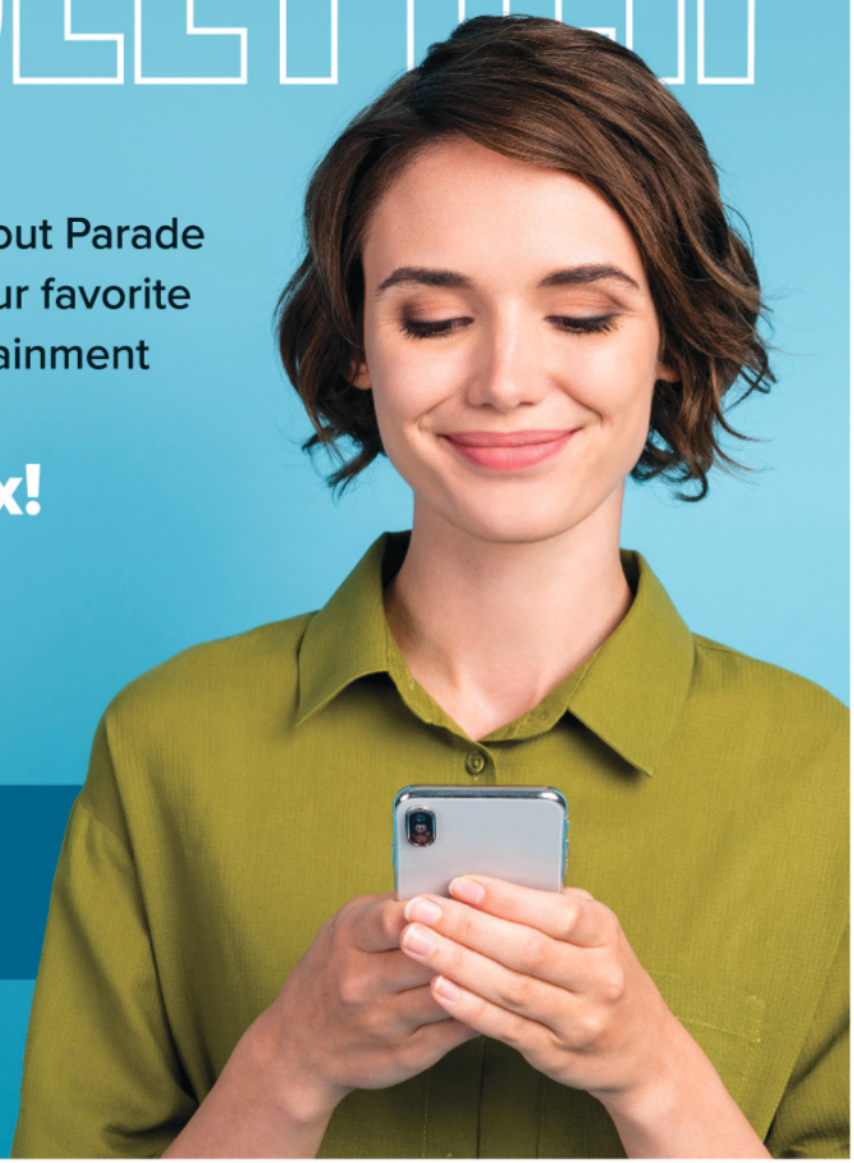


CLICK TO SIGN UP TODAY!

BRAVO MICHELLE YEOH!

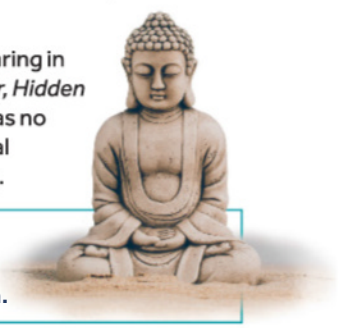
Our fingers are crossed she'll be the first Asian woman to win a Best Actress Oscar.

Win or lose at the 95th Academy Awards ceremony tonight (8 pm ET on ABC), Michelle Yeoh, 60—whose performance in the sci-fi drama *Everything Everywhere All at Once* earned her a nomination—has the honor of being the first Asian woman nominated for an Oscar in the Best Actress category. Yeoh won the Golden Globe for Best Actress earlier this year.

Here are some facts you may not know about the Malaysian-born actress, whose credits include *Tomorrow Never Dies* (1997), *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* (2000), *Memoirs of a Geisha* (2005) and *Crazy Rich Asians* (2018).

It took 59 years for Yeoh to land her first lead role in a Hollywood film, ***Everything Everywhere All at Once***, which resulted in her Oscar nomination.

- Born in Ipoh, Perak, Yeoh speaks English, Malay and Cantonese.
- She began studying ballet at age four and eventually enrolled in the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance.
- Yeoh was crowned Miss Malaysia in 1983, and then traveled to Australia where she also won the Miss Moomba and Queen of the Pacific titles.
- Her standing as Miss Malaysia earned her a spot in a commercial starring Jackie Chan. She moved on to action films, and the rest is history.
- Despite appearing in *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, she has no formal martial arts training.



Yeoh practices Buddhism.

One of her biggest acting challenges? Learning how to correctly walk in a kimono for ***Memoirs of a Geisha***. If you do it wrong, she's said, "it's like dragging a dead cat across the floor."

Go to ***Parade.com/oscar101*** for everything you need to know about tonight's Academy Awards.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: DAVID BORNFRIEND/A24; ISTOCK; MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY; GILBERT FLORES/VARIETY VIA GETTY IMAGES

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WALTER SCOTT ASKS...

PARIS HILTON

Heiress. Party girl. Influencer. Reality star. These are all adjectives that have been used to label *The Simple Life* star, 42, but with the release of *Paris: The Memoir* (March 14), Hilton is hoping to change the descriptors to entrepreneur, survivor, activist, wife and mother. In her upcoming chronicle, she reveals the defining moments of her life and how she created a multibillion-dollar empire and found fulfillment.

You had already written *Confessions of an Heiress*. So why the new book? That was more of a fun, tongue-in-cheek book. This book is very serious and it's my life story, everything that I've gone through. I felt that my documentary, *This Is Paris*, was the first time that I had really been vulnerable and showed who I truly was. I felt there was so much more to the story. I think it's an important story, especially for young girls to read. I wish I had had this type of book back when I was a teenager.

How did surviving abuse at a psychiatric youth residential treatment center lead to who you are today? That definitely made me strong and able to have a really tough skin to make it through anything. It also gave me the drive to work hard to become successful, so that no one would be able to control me again.

Is your work trying to pass laws for troubled teens to show solidarity to other young people? [My experience] was so traumatizing that I kept it in for over 20 years. That was because these places really instill shame. That's what they do to the children to keep them silent. Me using my voice has resulted in more change and more impact than in the past 60 years of people trying to fight for this, so I'm just going to continue to help let people know what's happening behind closed doors. I've already changed laws, and I introduced my bill a few months back in D.C., so it'll be illegal in all 50 states for children to be abused at these places.

It's incredible that you were able to forgive your parents. As a teenager, I didn't know what I know now. Now I understand that the parents of these children are just as much the victims as the children. These places lie, they have deceptive marketing, they manipulate the families. My parents thought they were sending me to a normal boarding school. They had no idea.

When you look back, are there any regrets? I am such a strong woman because of everything that I've been through. I feel like everything we go through in life just builds you up to be a stronger and better person.

Congratulations on being a new mom. What surprised you about the experience? Just looking in his eyes and feeling a love that I have never experienced before in my life. He's just such a little angel. I've never felt happier or fuller in my life. My life feels so complete now with him. I'm more about mom life than boss-babe life now. P

When you said yes to *The Simple Life*, did you have any idea how the image that you projected on the show would stick? *The Simple Life* was the first of its kind, so we had no blueprint to follow. I had no idea it would be such a huge success and that I would play that character for five seasons. I'm not a dumb blonde. I'm just very good at pretending to be one. I love to be underestimated and prove people wrong. Now, with my business and my company, 11:11 Media, when I walk into a boardroom, people see the type of businesswoman I am. I'm proud they are seeing that I was in on the joke the entire time and knew exactly what I was doing.

FROM TOP: JON KOPALOFF/GETTY IMAGES; MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY

Love great interviews? Go to *Parade.com/walterscott* for more.

The Parade Don't Miss List

Here's what's on our radar for the week ahead. Go to *Parade.com/entertainment* for more.

TED LASSO

(MARCH 15 ON APPLE TV+)

It's time to believe again when *Ted Lasso* returns for its third season following its back-to-back Emmy Award wins for seasons one and two. Back on the pitch, the newly promoted AFC Richmond faces ridicule as media predictions widely peg them as last in the Premier League. While Ted (**Jason Sudeikis**) must deal with former employee Nathan "Nate" Shelley (**Nick Mohammed**) who's moved on to coach for the competition, his boss Rebecca (Hannah Waddingham) is now happily leading the players and wants the best for them. "As far as her personal life is concerned, it's delicious chaos as usual," said Waddingham, 48, who won Emmy and Critics Choice Awards for her portrayal. "That's life, right? You never have everything sorted."

Will season 3 be the last? Brett Goldstein, 42, who stars as Roy Kent and also serves as a writer on the show, has said yes: "It was planned as three," he said. Good reason to savor every episode.

BONO & THE EDGE: A SORT OF HOMECOMING, WITH DAVE LETTERMAN

(MARCH 17 ON DISNEY+)

When the U2 bandmates made a return to Dublin at the end of the COVID-19 lockdown, they invited the former late-night talk show host to join them for a conversation about music and friendship. *Bono & The Edge* features never-before-seen footage and interviews detailing their songwriting process and the inspiration behind their greatest hits, several of which they re-recorded and will be released in the upcoming album *Songs of Surrender* (March 17), which is a collection of 40 seminal U2 songs from across the band's catalog, rerecorded and reimagined for 2023 in sessions spanning the last two years.

BOSTON STRANGLER

(MARCH 17 IN THEATERS)

Carrie Coon and **Keira Knightley** play reporters in 1960s Boston who broke through sexism and corruption to report on the Boston Strangler, who murdered 13 women. Knightly (37, a long way from *Pirates of the Caribbean*), plays Loretta McLaughlin, who first connected the dots among the murders, assisted in reporting by Jean Cole, played by Coon (42, who also stars on *The Gilded Age* on HBO).

65

(MARCH 10 IN THEATERS)

Here's **Adam Driver**, 39, of *House of Gucci* and *Star Wars* fame as you've never seen him before. In this sci-fi thriller he plays Mills, an astronaut who's crash-landed on a mysterious planet—only to discover that's it is earth 65 millions years ago. Yes, that means there are prehistoric creatures impeding his survival, and escape.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: FLIXPIX/ALAMY; PATTI PERRET/SONY PICTURES; DISNEY+; APPLE TV+

MAKE EVERY MEAL GRAND

Popular blogger (Grandbaby Cakes) and Food Network judge (*Santa's Baking Blizzard* and *Beat Bobby Flay*) Jocelyn Delk Adams believes every day should be a celebration. That's the idea behind this simple sheet-pan supper that channels the flavors of French onion soup and this glorious Bundt cake that looks fancy but is easy to make. Both recipes are from Delk Adams' new cookbook, *Everyday Grand*. BY ALISON ASHTON

French Onion Sheet Pan Chicken

This sheet-pan dinner is inspired by Delk Adams' lifelong love of French onion soup. If you can't find Vidalia onions, substitute another sweet variety, such as Oso, Maui or Walla Walla.

Position a rack in the middle of the oven. Preheat oven to 450°F.

In a small bowl, whisk 1/3 cup **beef stock** and 2 tsp **Worcestershire sauce**. In another small bowl, whisk 1 Tbsp **kosher salt**, 2 tsp freshly ground **black pepper** and 2 tsp **smoked paprika**.

Thoroughly pat 3½ lb **bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs** dry. Lightly brush a large rimmed baking sheet with **extra-virgin olive oil**; sprinkle generously with paprika mixture. Place chicken on baking sheet, skin-side up; brush with 2 Tbsp olive oil. Generously season chicken with remaining paprika mixture. Pour stock mixture around chicken (not on top). Roast chicken 20 minutes.

While chicken is cooking, in a medium skillet, heat 1 Tbsp olive oil and 2 Tbsp unsalted butter over medium until butter has melted. Add 2 **large Vidalia onions**, thinly sliced (about 1½ lb total), and 1 tsp **granulated sugar**. Season with a couple of generous pinches of **salt**, cover, and cook 15 minutes, stirring every 5 minutes and adjusting heat as needed to prevent onions from burning. Uncover and cook 5 minutes or until onions turn a beautiful light caramel color. Stir in leaves from 3 **thyme sprigs**; cook 2 minutes or until fragrant. Remove from heat; set aside.

In a small bowl, combine 1/3 cup **dry sherry**, **dry vermouth or white wine**; 2 Tbsp finely chopped **flat-leaf parsley** and 4 cloves **garlic**, minced or finely grated. Remove chicken from oven; evenly pour sherry mixture over thighs. Evenly divide caramelized onions over each thigh, followed by 6 oz **Gruyère cheese**, shredded.

Return chicken to oven. Roast 15 minutes or until cheese has fully melted. Let rest for about 5 minutes. Serve garnished with parsley. **Serves 6.**

Want more chicken? Go to ***Parade.com/harissa-chicken*** for a sheet pan meal with pizazz.

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Praline Sweet Potato Pound Cake

Pound cakes are a specialty for Delk Adams, who has been perfecting them since childhood. "At an early point in my Grandbaby Cakes journey, my followers started dubbing me the 'Queen of Pound Cakes,'" she recalls. "I graciously accepted this title and now refer to myself this way in all settings, from random conversations with strangers to professional Zoom meetings.

"The trick to pound-cake success rests in nailing the moistness and texture; bonus points for creative flavors," she says. "And that's where this cake shines!"

You'll need **1-2 medium sweet potatoes** to yield enough mashed sweet potato for this recipe. Prick sweet potatoes with a fork and roast them at 450°F for 50 minutes or until tender. Let stand until cool enough to peel, then halve and scoop out the flesh.

PECAN SWIRL

In a medium bowl, whisk together 2/3 cup packed **light brown sugar**; 1/3 cup finely chopped **pecans**; 5 Tbsp **unsalted butter**, melted; 2 Tbsp **all-purpose flour**; 1½ tsp **ground cinnamon** and 1 tsp **vanilla extract** until thoroughly combined. Refrigerate while making cake.

CAKE

Position a rack in middle of oven. Preheat oven to 350°F. Liberally grease a 10-cup Bundt pan with butter and dust with flour.

In a medium bowl, whisk 3 cups **all-purpose flour**, sifted; 1½ tsp **baking powder**; 1 tsp ground cinnamon; 1 tsp **kosher salt**; ½ tsp **baking soda** and ¼ tsp freshly grated **nutmeg** until well combined.

In bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature, and 2 cups **granulated sugar** on high speed for 5 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add 5 **large eggs**, at room temperature, one at a time, ensuring that each egg is incorporated before adding the next. Stop and scrape down sides of bowl as needed. Add ¾ cup **sour cream**, at room temperature; ¾ cup **mashed cooked sweet potato** and 1½ Tbsp vanilla extract; beat on medium speed until incorporated (batter will look curdled, but it's all good). Reduce mixer speed to low, carefully add dry ingredients, and mix until just combined (batter will be thick).

Scoop half the batter into prepared pan. Remove praline swirl mixture from refrigerator and crumble with a fork, then sprinkle mixture over batter in pan. Scoop remaining batter into pan, smoothing top with a small offset spatula. Bake 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into center comes out moist but mostly clean. Transfer to a wire rack and let cool in pan 10 minutes. Invert cake onto rack; cool completely.

PRALINE GLAZE

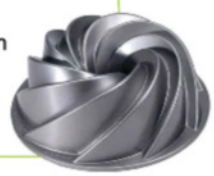
In a medium saucepan, combine 5 Tbsp unsalted butter, ½ cup packed light brown sugar, ½ cup **heavy cream**, 1 Tbsp **light corn syrup**, ½ tsp vanilla extract and ½ tsp kosher salt. Cook over medium heat, stirring frequently, until mixture comes to a simmer. Stir in 1½ cups chopped pecans until completely coated. Transfer glaze to a liquid measuring cup; cool completely. Pour cooled glaze over cooled cake; let set about 25 minutes before slicing and serving **Serves 10-12**.

Boost Your Bundt

Delk Adams' pound cake recipe works beautifully in a standard Bundt pan. But if you'd like a more dramatic pattern, try these other fancier pans.

The gold, cast aluminum **JUBILEE BUNDT PAN** from Nordic Ware has an interesting diamond design. The nonstick surface makes for easy cleanup; 10-cup capacity. **$42, amazon.com**

The **MINI JOYS FLUTED PANS** from Baker's Secret are heavy-duty aluminum with nonstick coating in four sweet styles. **$37, amazon.com**



The **HERITAGE BUNDT PAN** from Nordic Ware is made of cast aluminum for even baking and has a nonstick surface for easy release; 10-cup capacity. **$40, amazon.com**

Visit ***Parade.com/martha-bundt*** for Martha Stewart's favorite Bundt cake recipe.

The STORIES *behind the* SONGS

Our special Oscars Edition goes behind the scenes of some of the most enduring Academy Award-winning songs, from *The Wizard of Oz*'s "Over the Rainbow" to *Titanic*'s "My Heart Will Go On." **BY JIM FARBER**

The Oscar winners for Best Picture, Actor or Actress may make headlines, but the award for Best Original Song often makes history. The earliest winner, "Lullaby of Broadway" from 1935, has generated scores of indelible covers in the decades since, by stars from Bing Crosby to Bette Midler.

This year's candidates will likely set records of their own. Should Diane Warren's song "Applause" from the film *Tell It Like a Woman* take the prize, she'll break a curse of 13 straight losses. If Lady Gaga's "Hold My Hand," from *Top Gun: Maverick*, triumphs, she'll grab the title for the second time in four years. And if the viral sensation "Naatu Naatu" from the Indian drama *RRR* wins, it will represent the first time an entry from India has ever done so.

Here are 15 of the most dramatic stories behind Oscars' Best Songs. And go to ***Parade.com/best-songs-of-1973*** for the story behind Paul McCartney's "Live and Let Die."

1940 "Over the Rainbow" from *The Wizard of Oz*

One of the most hopeful songs ever written almost didn't make it into the movie that put it over the top. The producers of *The Wizard of Oz* asked the dream team of Harold Arlen (music) and Yip Harburg (lyrics) to write a song to appear towards the start of film that would express the deep yearning their lead character, Dorothy Gale, felt for a land beyond her family's bleak Kansas farm. When executives at MGM saw an early cut of the film, however, they thought the song slowed down the plot too soon. So, they proposed axing it, much to the horror of the composers who had labored over their piece.

Arlen's first attempt at the music struck Harburg as too slow and he wasn't thrilled with his initial run at the lyrics. In testing stages, he started with "I'll go over the rainbow" or "Someday over the rainbow." Eventually, Harburg convinced Arlen to pick up the pace and settled on the classic verbiage that was delivered beautifully enough by a 16-year-old **Judy Garland** to help the film win its sole Oscar. Though nominated in many other categories, it lost all those to another classic released the same year: *Gone With The Wind*.

COVER CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES; SCREEN ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES; JOHN KISCH ARCHIVE/GETTY IMAGES; SILVER SCREEN COLLECTION/GETTY IMAGES; FEATURE BY ARCHIVIO GBB/ALAMY

1943 "White Christmas" from *Holiday Inn*

Savvy songwriters know, if you want your piece to last forever, hitch it to a holiday. Probably no song in history has made more of that maxim than Irving Berlin's "White Christmas." As crooned by **Bing Crosby**, it's often credited as not just the top-selling Christmas anthem ever but, likely, the biggest seller in any musical category.

While exact sales weren't tallied until the introduction of SoundScan in 1991, Guinness estimates its sales at over 50 million. The song's initial emotional tug has often been credited to the fact that it was released during the first holiday season American military men spent away from home during World War II. It hit No. 1 that year, going on to enjoy chart comebacks every winter since. Even the announcement of the Oscar win made history: It's the only time that the person who presented the Song award (Berlin) also won it.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ARCHIVE PL/ALAMY; EVERETT COLLECTION HISTORICAL/ALAMY; UNITED ARCHIVES GMBH/ALAMY

1948 "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah" from *Song of the South*

The lyrics to this well-known Disney song imagine a life of unbroken blue skies and pure bliss. But the movie it came from, *Song of the South*, had a dark lining. Its script promoted racial stereotypes and whitewashed the realities of slavery. The African-American star who sang the song, **James Baskett**, couldn't even attend the film's premiere in Atlanta due to segregation laws at the time. All that didn't stop the song from becoming the second Disney ditty to win an Oscar, after "When You Wish Upon a Star" from *Pinocchio* (1940).

Neither did it stop Phil Spector from having a Top Ten hit with his version of it in 1962. But, by the '80s, changing attitudes moved Disney to refrain from releasing *Song of the South* on home video and, later, to ban it from their streaming platform, Disney+.

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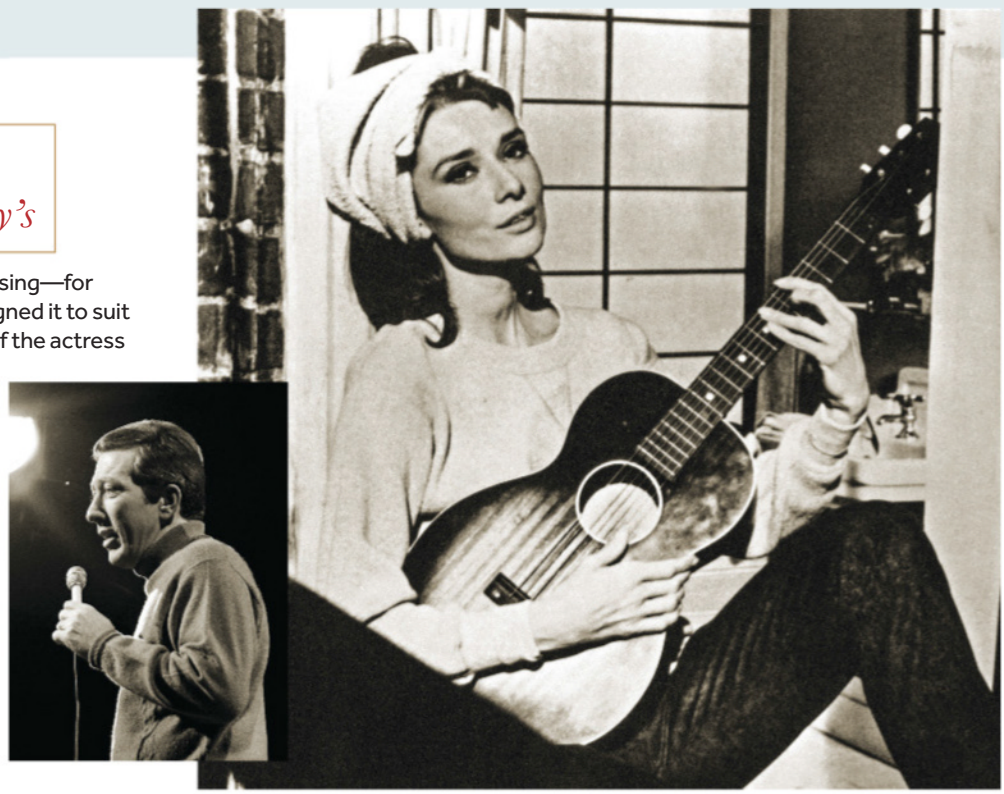
1950 "Baby It's Cold Outside" from *Neptune's Daughter*

Another controversial Oscar winner took six decades to draw that ire. The issue centered on the lyrics, which feature a call and response between a host, dubbed the "Wolf" (usually voiced by a male) and a guest named "Mouse" (commonly sung by a female). "Wolf" keeps asking "Mouse" to spend the night with him, ostensibly due to the cold, but also so they can create their own heat. "Mouse" politely demurs while making it clear that the "Wolf's" come-ons are far from unappealing to her.

Interestingly, the song, by **Frank Loesser**, was chosen for the film *Neptune's Daughter (*starring **Ricardo Montalbán** and **Esther Williams)** after censors felt that his first submission, "(I'd Like to Get You on a) Slow Boat to China," was too racy. For decades, everyone took the song as just a flirty lark. It wasn't until the twenty-tens that listeners on social media began to view the male character's behavior as sexual harassment. In 2018, a number of U.S. and Canadian radio stations banned the song, which wound up causing a backlash. That year, the song shot back into Billboard's Digital Top 10.

1962 "Moon River" from *Breakfast at Tiffany's*

"Moon River" has a melody anybody can sing—for a reason. Composer Henry Mancini designed it to suit the charming, but modest, vocal range of the actress who introduced it to the world: **Audrey Hepburn**. While her version of "Moon River" helped establish the vulnerability of her iconic character, Holly Golightly, it became a hit for two other artists—Jerry Butler and **Andy Williams**. Interestingly, each version earned the same chart position (No. 11), but Williams' take had a longer life, serving as the theme song for his hit TV show (1962-1971). Hepburn suffered another blow to her vocal talents in 1964 when Marni Nixon was brought in to dub her singing parts in *My Fair Lady*.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: MGM/RONALD GRANT ARCHIVE/ALAMY; JOHN SWOPE/GETTY IMAGES; FILMPUBLICITYARCHIVE/UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; HERB BALL/NBCU PHOTO BANK/NBCUNIVERSAL VIA GETTY IMAGES

1970 "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on My Head" from *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*

Before the songwriting team of **Burt Bacharach** and **Hal David** nabbed their Oscar for the insouciant "Raindrops" theme (for the film starring **Robert Redford**, **Paul Newman** and **Katherine Ross)**, they suffered three losses—for "What's New Pussycat?" in 1966, "Alfie" in 1967, and "The Look of Love" in 1968. Bob Dylan and Ray Stevens turned down the chance to sing the song, so they tapped B.J. Thomas at the suggestion of Bacharach's vocal muse, Dionne Warwick. The day Thomas recorded the song, he had laryngitis, giving him a rasp the songwriters liked. He cut a different version for the single which, aided by an extra horn solo, soared to No. 1.

1972 "Theme from Shaft" from *Shaft*

When **Isaac Hayes** got the Best Song prize, he became the first African American to take that award, as well as the first to win in any non-acting category. And he was the first Best Song champ to both write and perform the winning piece. The song's lyrics—about a "private dick" (slang for detective) who's "a sex machine to all the chicks"—became just as well-known as its distinct rhythm. Even the backup vocals became iconic, especially when **Telma Hopkins** stops Hayes from completing the sentence "he's a bad mother..." by singing "Shut your mouth!" Later, Hopkins used that line as her catchphrase in sitcom acting roles in both *Bosom Buddies* and *Family Matters*. Initially, the Academy tried to disqualify Hayes from the competition because he didn't notate his song. "Quincy Jones got in there and argued my case; saying that even if I didn't physically write it down, they were my ideas," Hayes told *Mojo* magazine. Hayes further put the Academy in its place by boldly performing the song on the show in his trademark bare-chested chain-link outfit, creating one of the most striking visual presentations in Oscar history.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FILMPUBLICITYARCHIVE/UNITED ARCHIVES VIA GETTY IMAGES; ABC PHOTO ARCHIVES/DISNEY GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT CONTENT VIA GETTY IMAGES; BETTMANN/GETTY IMAGES (2)

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1974 "The Way We Were" from *The Way We Were*

Barbra Streisand scored the first No. 1 single of her career with "The Way We Were," the theme to her movie with **Robert Redford**. Her second, "Evergreen," came three years later with another film she top-lined: *A Star is Born*. For the latter, Streisand wrote the music for Paul Williams' lyrics, making her the first woman to win in a composing category. She also had a hand in shaping "The Way We Were." During the composition stage, she convinced songwriter Marvin Hamlisch to change some notes in his melody from major keys to minor to stoke more emotion. She also changed the song's first word from "daydreams" to "memories," or, as she had to pronounce it to fit the tune, "mem'ries."

1978 "Last Dance" from *Thank God It's Friday*

The creators of "Last Dance" should thank God that far more people remember their rousing anthem than the junky movie that contained it. *The Washington Post* summarized *Thank God It's Friday* as "90 aimless, alienating minutes" that "don't sustain a glimmer of human interest."

That was one of the nicer notices for a film whose creators hoped would be their answer to *Saturday Night Fever*. Remarkably, "Last Dance" became the first disco-identified track to win an Oscar, a distinction you might have thought would've gone to The Bee Gees' classic *Fever* soundtrack. The man who penned "Last Dance," Paul Jabara, also cowrote "Enough is Enough," which featured a thrilling sing-off between Barbra Streisand and **Donna Summer**, the vocalist on "Last Dance." The song suffered another ill-fated placement in 2010 when the fast-food chain Wendy's included it on a CD that came with their kiddie meals. Outraged parents objected to the supposed use of the word "horny" in the song, a lyric that doesn't officially appear and Summer claimed never to have sung. Regardless, the chain pulled the release.

FROM LEFT: SUNSET BOULEVARD/CORBIS VIA GETTY IMAGES; MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES/GETTY IMAGES

1989 "Let the River Run" from *Working Girl*

It should come as no surprise that some of the most literary lines ever to grace an Oscar-winning song came from **Carly Simon**, whose father cofounded the Simon & Schuster publishing company. She found inspiration for her uplifting words from the poems of Walt Whitman (many of which celebrate the movie's setting of New York) and William Blake (whose image of the "new Jerusalem" she borrowed).

Simon's song for the movie starring **Harrison Ford**, **Sigourney Weaver** and **Melanie Griffith**, became the first entry by a single artist to be honored with an Oscar, a Golden Globe and a Grammy. (Bruce Springsteen's 1993 song about a man dying of AIDS, "Streets of Philadelphia" for the movie *Philadelphia*, was the second.) The lyrical connection between Simon's uplifting song and New York City inspired the U.S. postal service to use it in an ad post-9/11. In 2009, Simon performed the piece at the World Trade Center site to honor those lost in the terrorist attack.

1998 "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic*

Everything seemed to go against using a pop song in the movie ***Titanic***, which starred **Leo DiCaprio** and **Kate Winslet**. When the film's producers first asked its director (James Cameron) to stick a contemporary song into the movie, he balked, believing it would violate its historical context. He relented to allay the producers' fears that he was making a commercial bomb.

Likewise, when the producers approached Celine Dion to sing the song, she told *Billboard* she wanted "to choke" her manager/husband (René Angélil) for even suggesting it. At that point, she felt "soundtracked-out," having recently recorded theme songs for *Beauty and the Beast* and the Robert Redford movie *Up Close and Personal*. The song's producer (Walter Afanasieff) had just as withering an initial response, dubbing the song's early demo "dreary."

All that uncertainty wound up greatly benefiting the company with the soundtrack rights. They paid just $800,000, thinking they were going to get an instrumental score, not a pop smash. The soundtrack album, which was otherwise comprised of instrumentals by James Horner, wound up selling over 15 million copies. One week later, the song reappeared on Celine's album, *Let's Talk about Love*, which doubled the soundtrack's massive sales.

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: ALLSTAR PICTURE LIBRARY LTD/ALAMY; RON GALELLA, LTD./RON GALELLA COLLECTION VIA GETTY IMAGES; CBS VIA GETTY IMAGES

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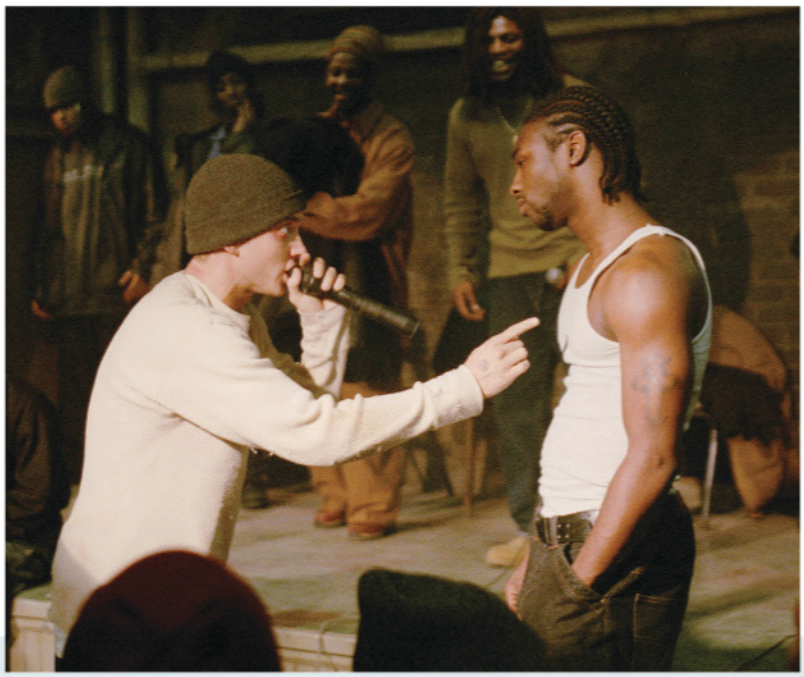
2003 "Lose Yourself" from *8 Mile*

Oscar voters may know quality music when they hear it, but they often have a tin ear for the cutting-edge kind. It came as welcome surprise, then, when **Eminem** took the prize for "Lose Yourself," in the process making him the first rapper to earn that distinction. (Three years later, another hip-hop track won the award: "It's Hard Out Here for a Pimp" by Three 6 Mafia for the movie *Hustle & Flow*.) The combination of Eminem's compelling acting in the film *8 Mile* (with **Anthony Mackie**) and the complex lyricism in the song made his win more than worthy. It helped that he drew on his own life to create the piece. "It would sound so corny if I was just rapping as Jimmy Smith Jr. (his character in the film)," Eminem told the website *Genius*. "That was the trick I had to figure out—how to make the rhyme sound like him, then morph into me so you see the parallels between his struggles and mine." The track also became Eminem's first No. 1 single.



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2008 "Falling Slowly" from *Once*

The song that won the 2008 Oscar was nearly disqualified from the competition entirely. Academy rules stipulate that eligible nominees must have been written specifically for the film in consideration. But "Falling Slowly" had already appeared three times before its placement in the movie ***Once***. In 2006, it was included on a joint album by its composers, **Glen Hansard** and **Marketa Irglova**, as well as on a release by Hansard's main band, The Frames. It also served as the main theme for another movie, *Beauty in Trouble*.

Luckily for the songwriters, Oscar's overlords ruled that because the song was originally conceived to fit the plot of *Once*, and because relatively few people heard the earlier releases, it could be considered. The song further stood out from most Oscar nominees by its spare arrangement and intimate performances, giving it an underdog quality voters couldn't resist.

FROM TOP: MAXIMUM FILM/ALAMY; WALLY SKALIJ/LOS ANGELES TIMES VIA GETTY IMAGES

2013 "Skyfall" from *Skyfall*

Oscar voters flirted with Bond themes for decades before finally rewarding **Adele**'s entry in 2013. Four such pieces had been nominated before—the slinky Burt Bacharach-Hal David number "The Look of Love" for *Casino Royale* in 1968, the bombastic Paul McCartney blow-out "Live and Let Die" in '74, Carly Simon's sexy "Nobody Does it Better" for *The Spy Who Loved Me* in '78 and Sheena Easton's anthem in *For Your Eyes Only* in 1982.

While Adele's darkly sweeping melody for *Skyfall* (**Daniel Craig**, **Javiar Bardem**) broke the losing streak, she was initially self-conscious about taking the assignment. The film's director Sam Mendes told *Indie Wire* that Adele told him, "my songs are personal, I write from the heart." He brought her around by telling her to use Simon's intimate love song, "Nobody Does It Better," as her role model. The win paved the way for another Bond songwriter to clinch the award: In 2022, **Billie Eilish** took the prize for her "No Time to Die" theme.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES; COLLECTION CHRISTOPHEL/ALAMY; COLUMBIA PICTURES/ALAMY; PATRICK T. FALLON/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

2018 "Shallow" from *A Star Is Born*

Hollywood can't remake *A Star is Born* often enough, it seems. Four versions have appeared so far—a 1937 narrative take starring Janet Gaynor and Fredric March, followed by three musicals: a 1954 version starring Judy Garland and James Mason, a 1976 redo with Barbra Streisand and Kris Kristofferson and, in 2018, the entry with **Lady Gaga** and **Bradley Cooper**. Interestingly, both Streisand's and Gaga's versions earned Best Song nods. Both were also cowritten by their singers and became No. 1 hits.

Still, Gaga's piece holds the record for the longest run on the charts for any Best Song champ. That's even more remarkable considering that the track paired her with Bradley Cooper, who's hardly known as a singer. Originally, "Shallow" wasn't conceived as a duet for the stars. Only later did Gaga and cowriter Mark Ronson realize how well that format could enhance the script. Its lyrical interplay underscored an urgent topic, one which Gaga stressed in her Oscar acceptance speech. "I'm so proud to be a part of a movie that addresses mental health issues," she said, before pointedly saying to her peers, "a lot of artists deal with that. We have to take care of each other."

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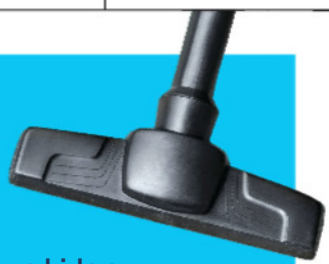
Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT



Why is it so hard to get rid of dust? Our house has been completely shut throughout the winter with the obvious exception of opening outside doors occasionally. Only my wife and I are here—no kids or pets. We have central heating with a high-tech air cleaner, and I vacuum at least once weekly. Considering all this, one would think the dust would eventually be negligible, but I still see it on the furniture, and every time I vacuum, the canister is at least half full.

—Robert Carrell, Allison Park, Pennsylvania

A great deal of visible household dust is composed of fabric fibers and flakes of dead skin, so the source of the dust is likely already inside the house. For example, do you have any wall-to-wall carpeting? Rugs? Drapes or curtains? Furniture with cushions? Pillows? Towels? Do you and your wife wear clothing? If so, you're going to have plenty of dust right there! For a case in point, try taking the socks you wore yesterday and shaking them in the morning sunlight. Agh! And do you use paper products? Do you cook? Even without welcoming fresh (in theory, anyway) outside air in, dust indoors is inevitable.

And then there's all the particulate matter you can't see, such as mold, mildew and paint particles. As buildings age, too, construction material slowly breaks down.

And did I mention dust mites?

Send questions to
marilyn@parade.com

CLASSIC ASK MARILYN

THE CABLE QUESTION

SEPT. 14, 1997

A 30-foot cable is suspended between the tops of two 20-foot poles on level ground. The lowest point of the cable is 5 feet above the ground. What is the distance between the two poles?

—Warren Buckland, Morganville, N.J.

WORD TEASER

What's the definition of SNECK?

A. a malicious grin or laugh

B. an irregularly shaped stone used in masonry

C. the sound one makes when trying not to laugh

D. a rare type of short, stubby reptile that slithers

Find solutions to Marilyn's puzzles and this week's Numbrix on the next page!

Numbrix®

Complete 1 to 81 so the numbers follow a horizontal or vertical path—no diagonals.

29				25				5
	35			24			7	
77	78						18	1
	67			62			53	
69				61				51

For more Numbrix puzzles, go to ***Parade.com/numbrix***.

ISTOCK

Ask Marilyn

BY MARILYN VOS SAVANT

SOLUTIONS

THE CABLE QUESTION

There is no distance between the poles at all. Envision a 20-foot pole. It would take 15 feet of cable just to go straight down to 5 feet above the ground, and it would take another 15 feet of cable to go straight back up. That's all the cable we've got! Those poles must be adjacent to each other.

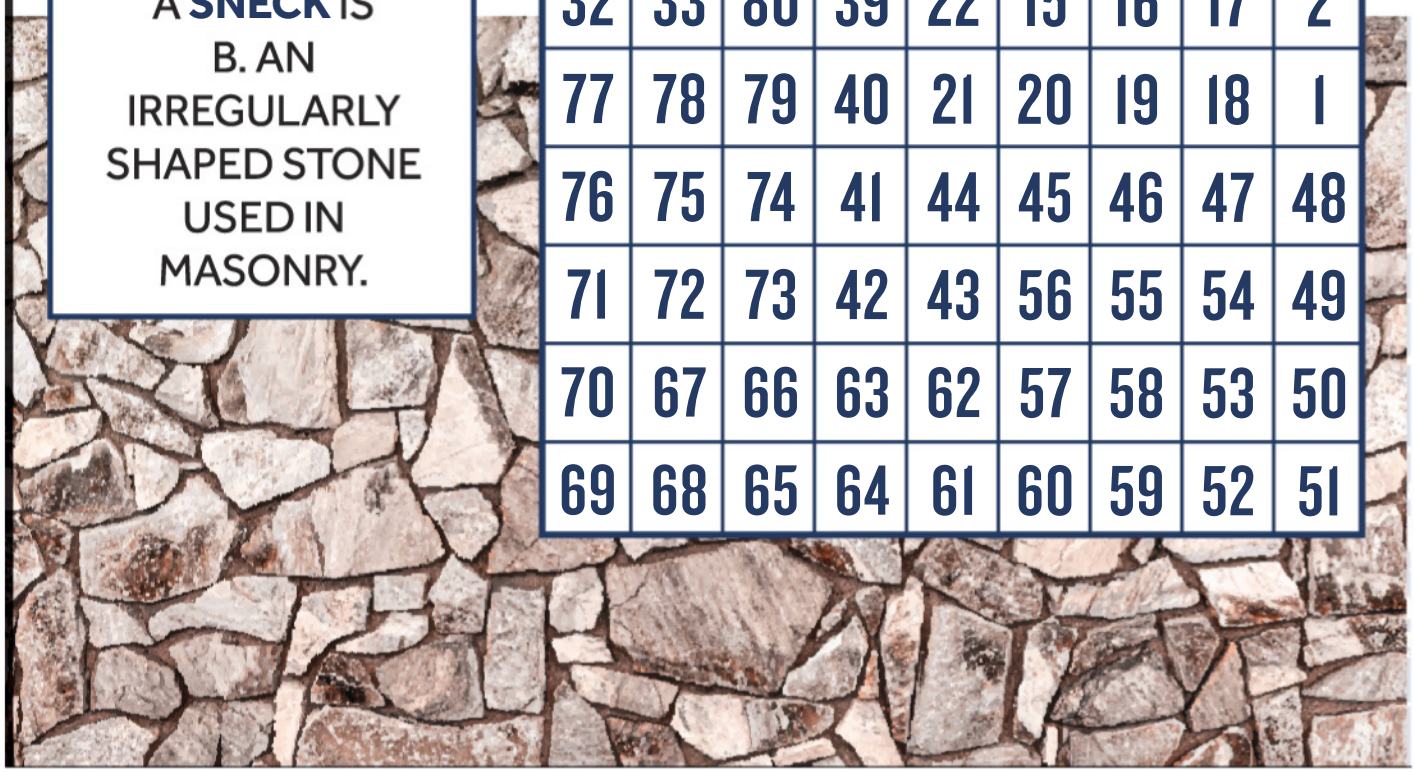
WORD TEASER

A **SNECK** IS
B. AN
IRREGULARLY
SHAPED STONE
USED IN
MASONRY.

Numbrix®

March 12, 2023

29	28	27	26	25	12	11	6	5
30	35	36	37	24	13	10	7	4
31	34	81	38	23	14	9	8	3
32	33	80	39	22	15	16	17	2
77	78	79	40	21	20	19	18	1
76	75	74	41	44	45	46	47	48
71	72	73	42	43	56	55	54	49
70	67	66	63	62	57	58	53	50
69	68	65	64	61	60	59	52	51



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